in Srinagar on 01 October and that the President had also said that "terrorism must end everywhere, and that includes in Kashmir". During Prime Minister's meeting with U.S. President George Bush on 09 November 2001 in Washington D.C., the two leaders noted that both countries are targets of terrorism and affirmed the need for a global war against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world.

Loss due to payment of lease charges for excess space in a Chancery premises

1893. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have leased a Chancery premises in Houston in December, 1995 in excess of space prescribed for the purpose for a period of ten years;

(b) Whether it is a fact that by this deal Government have incurred a loss of about three crore rupees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any responsibility has since been fixed for such a wrong decision?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS .(SHRI JASWANT SINGH) (a) to (d) The Chancery premises of the Consulate General of India, Houston, consisting of 11353 sq. ft. was leased with effect from December, 1995. In November 2000, Director of Audit, Indian Accounts, Embassy of India, Washington, intimated that the Post had leased an area of 4052 sq. ft. in excess of the prescribed space norms. The Audit authorities, while asking for the views of the.Ministry on this issue, proposed to include the draft para in the Annual Report of CAG of India. The Post has responded that premises was rented by them on functional grounds within the rental ceiling prescribed by the Ministry while keeping inview any future expansion and local requirements. In the meanwhile, the relevant para on this issue has included in the Annual Report of the CAG of India for the year ending 31st March 2000-Nov. 2 of 2001. The Ministry is in the process . of sending an appropriate response to the authorities concerned.